

**Italy 'ready to discuss air blockade'**

ROME (R) — Italy said Tuesday it would discuss with NATO allies the idea of enforcing an aerial blockade of Iraq, already under a U.N. trade embargo for its invasion of Kuwait. "The Italian government is ready to discuss an aerial blockade," Foreign Ministry spokesman Giovanni Castellaneta said. Italy would consult its NATO allies and then other members of the United Nations on the issue. "The more strictly we apply the embargo, the more the danger of war recedes," Castellaneta told reporters. "If Iraq realizes that the embargo is total, the regime might begin to retreat and accept conditions for dialogue... a lax embargo not only increases Iraq's ability to resist but increases the danger of more drastic solutions," he added. He said the idea was certain to come up at Monday's emergency NATO meeting in Brussels and at talks in Rome next week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Sunday London was considering the feasibility of an air blockade against Iraq to enforce the U.N. sanctions imposed after Baghdad's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Volume 15 Number 4487

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية انجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الرأي

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1990, SAFAR 15, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

**British tycoon  
brings in  
relief supplies**

**Westerners  
arrive  
from Iraq**

AMMAN (Agencies) — Scores of Western nationals, including 135 West Germans, arrived here from Iraq Tuesday aboard two Iraqi Airways jettisons.

At the same time British millionaire Richard Branson flew into Amman on a Jumbo jet of his Virgin Atlantic Airline carrying food for tens of thousands of Asian nationals stranded in Jordan after fleeing from Kuwait.

It was not immediately clear whether the Jumbo jet would be picking up British women and children and other Westerners expected to arrive in Amman on a third flight from Baghdad later Tuesday.

Shortly after his Jumbo jet landed, Branson and his crew were thanked personally by Her Majesty Queen Noor, who went aboard the plane.

"We are so grateful, we de-  
sperately need all this," the  
Queen told Branson, pointing at  
the sacks of wheat stung on top of  
scarlet first class seats aboard the  
Jumbo.

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## King returns, plans new Iraq mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, planning a new mission to Iraq to find a diplomatic political solution to the Gulf crisis, returned home Monday after a North African and West European visit.

The King, who called off a visit to Moscow to talk with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev prior to the superpower summit to be held in Helsinki, Finland, Sunday, met with Italian leaders in Rome Monday on the last leg of his visit to Europe.

According to Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, the King plans to visit Baghdad in the next 48 hours. "The King is counting on a lot on his new trip to Baghdad and his talks with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," De Michelis said in Rome. Italian officials said the King gave no details of his plans for the talks in Iraq.

"The King told De Michelis and (Italian Prime Minister Giulio) Andreotti that, after collective observations from his tour, he had decided to bring Saddam Hussein up to date," Italian spokesman Pio Mastrobuoni told reporters.

De Michelis said he had asked the King to intervene with the Iraqi leader on behalf of the thousands of Westerners still remaining in Iraq and Kuwait.

King Hussein, who said Monday that war in the Gulf would bring total devastation and could prove disastrous for world peace, left Rome without speaking to reporters.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem told the Italians earlier that it had proved impossible to arrange a meeting between the King and Gorbachev before the superpower summit in Helsinki Sunday.

The King's planned trip to Baghdad followed abortive talks last weekend between U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de

Cellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and the resigna-

tion Monday of Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi.

Diplomats say King Hussein is promoting a plan under which U.S. and Arab forces would withdraw from Saudi Arabia at the same time as Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait.

"The King affirmed to the leaders of these states that any solution to the Gulf problem should be within an Arab framework and stressed the need to stop the escalation, finding the suitable solutions to the problem and exerting every possible effort to crystallize an Arab and international stand to avoid escalating the crisis," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

But he added: "If they do not, the only way to avoid a military confrontation will be to make sure the sanctions against Iraq are really effective."

De Michelis, current chairman of the European Community Council of Ministers, will host a meeting of EC foreign ministers Friday to discuss plans to give aid to Jordan, Egypt and other countries worst hit by the trade

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**U.S. navy  
seizes  
Iraqi ship**

**Ismail Hijazi  
passes away**

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh Tuesday announced the death of former deputy Ismail Hijazi, Hijazi, who died Tuesday, had assumed several ministerial posts, and served as a member of the Lower House for more than one term. The Lower House's speaker and members also mourned his death. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid to convey his condolences to the Hijazi family over the death.

**Abu Abass: No  
attacks on U.S. — yet**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestinian guerrilla leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Abbas) said Tuesday his group will not attack U.S. targets in the Middle East in retaliation for the "Americans' intervention" in the Gulf unless they strike at Iraq. "Our interests lie in a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," he told reporters at his heavily guarded headquarters in downtown Baghdad. "For the time being, we don't want to give the Americans an excuse to launch an attack against Iraq," he said. "But if the Americans wage a battle, it will be a fierce one and all their interests in the region will be within our reach," he declared. The guerrilla leader heads the Palestine Liberation Front.

**U.S. F-16 crashes  
in Gulf accident**

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. air force F-16 involved in the Gulf buildup in the Gulf crashed Monday in the southern Arabian Peninsula during a routine training mission, the U.S. Defense Department said. A spokesperson said the pilot ejected and was unharmed in the accident.

**No Iraqi troops,  
missiles in Sudan'**

PARIS (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir denied Tuesday that Iraq had deployed troops and scud missiles in Sudan ahead of its invasion of Kuwait. "There is not a single Iraqi soldier, nor a piece of Iraqi weaponry on Sudanese territory," Bashir, in Paris for a U.N. conference, told reporters. Sudan has criticised the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf but remained largely sympathetic to Iraq. Sudanese officers serving in the Gulf have been quoted as saying Iraq deployed around 7,000 soldiers and installed scud missiles along Sudan's eastern seaboard facing Saudi Arabia across the Red Sea. They said Iraq sent a brigade to Sudan last year to help the government fight rebels in the south, and despatched two more brigades a few days before its invasion of Kuwait a month ago.

## Iraq denies PLO report of willingness to discuss 'deal'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Tuesday denied a statement by a senior Palestinian leader that it was willing to withdraw from most of Kuwait in return for assurances that the United States would not attack.

"Kuwait is a vital part of Iraq," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a commentary by its political editor. "It is the branch that has returned to the origin for even..."

"Iraq insists that American troops must withdraw from the holy lands and that all Arab potential should be directed to Liberating Palestine," the agency said, referring to the deployment of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi leader feared that even if Iraq pulls out and releases Westerners held in Iraq and Kuwait, the United States

and he could keep a strip of Kuwaiti territory.

"Saddam Hussein is ready to negotiate and to withdraw from Kuwait if he obtains certain guarantees," Abu Iyad told the daily Liberation in an interview published Tuesday.

INA said: "Such talk might have been infused into Mr. Salah Khalaf."

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The Iraqi leader feared that even if Iraq pulls out and releases Westerners held in Iraq and Kuwait, the United States

(Continued on page 4)

## Moscow proposes comprehensive international Mideast conference

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday proposed an international conference on the Gulf crisis that would also take up the Arab-Israeli conflict and the civil war in Lebanon.

The sources said the Sri Lankan government had assured Western countries enforcing the blockade that no further shipments to Iraq would be allowed.

The sources said tea was an important commodity for Iraq where tea-drinking is almost a universal habit.

They said Western intelligence agencies had been tracking the Zanubis as it made its way towards the Gulf from Sri Lanka.

U.S. navy crewmen from the guided missile cruiser Biddle boarded an Iraqi tanker in the Red Sea last Friday, but the tanker was found to be empty and was allowed to proceed.

Tek Pentagon said that boarding was the first of an Iraqi ship by the U.S. navy in operations to prevent goods moving in and out of Iraq.

The Defense Department said earlier last Friday that U.S. navy ships had questioned about 350 tankers and cargo ships and had boarded about 10 vessels none of them Iraqi or Kuwaiti.

The text of his speech was distributed by the official TASS news agency.

news agency.

"For the first time in history, the international community has acted with so much unanimity and firmness in response to aggression and in seeking to eliminate its consequences," Shevardnadze told an international meeting on Asian relations.

"But it is essential to pursue our objective through non-military means and in a way that would remove the military presence of other countries," he said.

In proposing the international conference on the Middle East, Shevardnadze linked the Gulf crisis to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the civil strife in Lebanon.

Irqi President Saddam Hussein proposed that a pullout of his troops from Kuwait be contingent upon an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Un-

ited States rejected the plan.

"Presumably, Israel's agreement to (a conference's) convocation could exert a positive influence on the overall situation in the Middle East and on efforts to defuse the crisis in the Gulf," Shevardnadze said.

"For its part, the Soviet Union... might take a fresh look at the issue of Soviet-Israeli relations," Shevardnadze added.

The Soviet Union and Israel have not had diplomatic relations since the 1967 Middle East war, although both countries have been moving closer in recent months.

Shevardnadze's speech did not underestimate the difficulties but was the most optimistic statement so far by either superpower about the summit in the Finnish capital Helsinki.

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## Israel alarmed by chance of a deal in Gulf

By Jackson Diehl  
Washington Post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The prospect that the Gulf crisis may be resolved through United Nations mediation has alarmed Israel's rightist government, which is intent on bringing about the destruction of Iraq's military potential and the downfall of President Saddam Hussein.

The Pentagon has reported that more than 350 ships of various nationalities have been challenged by U.S. warships in the Gulf and the Red Sea since the U.N. security council decreed the embargo.

The Pentagon has also reported that the U.S. customs service detained a Kuwaiti container ship and was examining the cargo to see if anything was destined for Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

The ship Al Wattiyah was ordered held Monday evening, said Neil Pitragmo, a customs agent based in Newark.

world," Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in a television appearance. "I hope this will not be the way the crisis ends."

Commentators outside the government have put the argument even more forcefully.

"In truth," said an editorial in the newspaper Yediot Ahronot, "successful mediation of the crisis arouses fear, not because Israel delights in war" but because "a diplomatic compromise for the Kuwait crisis, leaving the Iraqi war machine intact and bringing about the withdrawal of American forces from the region, would mean that we would remain here alone with Saddam and his mad ambitions."

Senior government officials say they believe the mediation effort launched by the UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cesar, may only derail

what has been a steady buildup of U.S. pressure on Mr. Hussein, and they privately express concern about the apparent interest of President George Bush in the effort.

"We are puzzled about Bush's intentions," one official said. "We're afraid that because of the hostages, he may be losing the resolve we saw until now."

Another official close to the top leadership said that Israel does not oppose a diplomatic solution to the crisis as such, but feels strongly that there can be no compromise with Mr. Hussein.

"We would like Saddam Hussein to disappear one way or another," the official said.

"We believe that if there is a diplomatic solution that is forceful enough, that humiliates him and weakens him enough, force may not be

necessary."

As the crisis has shifted towards negotiation, Israeli officials have begun to fear that a settlement will again leave Israel with the job of facing Iraq militarily, a challenge that could eventually plunge Israel into another devastating regional war.

"The whole Middle East and particularly Israel would be in grave danger" if Mr. Hussein survives, said Zalman Shoval, the new Israeli ambassador to the United States.

"We could end up facing the same conflict later on, under less auspicious conditions."

Behind this security concern, officials said, an equally intense Israeli political interest motivates the antagonism to UN mediation: preventing the Palestine Liberation Organisation, an Iraqi ally, from reversing the political and financial

explosion, not only here but in the moderate Arab states.

Israeli officials acknowledge that even a full-scale war between the United States and Iraq and the overthrow of Mr. Hussein could fail to change the character of the Iraqi regime.

According to Israeli intelligence assessments, "there is no pro-Western alternative in Iraq," one senior official said. "Whoever succeeds Saddam very likely will not be much better."

For that reason, some Israeli analysts believe the main U.S. objective should be to cripple Iraq as a military power.

"Don't define it as getting rid of Saddam," said a government source. "He can even stay, as a weak puppet. But the main thing has to be to stop Iraq as a threat to the Middle East."

## OAU seeks to avert Gulf war

PARIS (R) — The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has begun efforts to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said Tuesday, "If Iraq could withdraw and restore the sovereignty of Kuwait without fighting that would be better for us all." Museveni told a news conference. Museveni, who is the current OAU chairman, is representing Africa at a United Nations conference in Paris discussing the plight of the world's poorest nations. He said the crisis created by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had already resulted in rising oil bills for the 41 states at the conference, many of them African. Both Kuwait and Iraq have well established ties with Mauritania and Sudan. "We have engaged in quiet diplomacy with both the Americans and the Arab countries to avert any fighting because that would be damaging to us," Museveni said. He said the OAU condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but the Western reaction demonstrated "a double standard that complicates international relations."



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return from Europe Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)

## Crown Prince demands world action to speed up evacuation

**'Riots' a common occurrence at Ruweished camp, relief officials report**

By Ali Masarweh and P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday

levelled angry criticism against the international community and media for not giving enough attention to the plight of tens of thousands of Asian evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and called on them to "contribute immediately and effectively" towards transporting the evacuees home.

## 100,000 could die in Gulf war — Chevenement

*'No legal base for intervention'*

PARIS (Agencies) — French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said Tuesday at least 100,000 people would die if war broke out in the Gulf and that there was no legal basis for a Western military intervention in Iraq or Kuwait.

Chevenement, who has faced resignation calls over his moderation on the Gulf crisis, compared a war in the Gulf with U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

"Specialists know a war would be extremely costly in human terms. Those I consult regularly say at least 100,000 people would die... those who envisage a full-blooded war have not analysed the consequences, which would be largely unpredictable."

"There is no legal basis for a military intervention against Iraq or even simply to liberate Kuwait," he told French radio. Chevenement, saying he was a strong believer in a diplomatic solution to the crisis, said the United Nations embargo on Iraq was 95 per cent effective but should now be extended to air and land transport.

The Socialist minister said hawks in favour of a war had failed to analyse the consequences of a war between Iraq and forces sent to the Gulf, dominated by some 100,000 U.S. troops.

"There is an illusory belief that this would be a celeran war limited to an area 5,000 kilometres from our own borders," said Chevenement.

"They have not understood the immense difficulty of a land war led by a foreign force, in Vietnam

## Israel bans use of Arabic names of Arab towns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) Israel's state-run radio and television told its journalists Tuesday to use Hebrew instead of Arabic names for Arab towns.

Arye Mekel, director of the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA), ordered journalists to avoid Arabic names for Arab areas of Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, his spokeswoman Ayalah Cohen told Reuters.

Arabic and Hebrew are both official languages of the state of Israel.

"We came to the land of Israel and not to Palestine so I asked that these places be called by their Hebrew, Biblical names," said IBA Assistant Chairman Shlomo Kor, who proposed the change.

"We came to Yerushalayim and Hebron and not Al Quds and Al Khalil," he said, contrasting it instead of "the territories."

## No release imminent for U.S. hostages'

BAALBEK (AP) — A reputed mentor of pro-Iranian kidnappers has said the release of any American hostages in Lebanon this year has been ruled out in retaliation for the U.S. deployment of troops in Saudi Arabia.

"If there is going to be a hostage release, it will be Europeans, not Americans," Hussein Musawi told reporters in the eastern town of Baalbek Monday.

Musawi heads a pro-Syrian wing of Hezbollah, Iran's main ally in Lebanon and the reputed umbrella for extremist factions holding hostages in Lebanon.

The United States has spearheaded the West's occupation of Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and that eliminated the chance of releasing American hostages in Lebanon this year, Musawi said.

Bahrain has agreed to accept Marine FA-18 attack planes, A-6 attack aircraft, AV-8 harrier jets and EA-6 electronic jamming planes, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday edition.

In addition, the United States deployed a "sizeable number" of F-16 fighters in the United Arab Emirates.

"Some Americans are not going to like that because it sounds like we are mercenaries," Bergsten said.

C. Fred Bergsten, a former treasury department official, said that Bush's hasty effort could well serve as a prototype for future global cooperation in which the U.S. military would stand ready to preserve peace with financial backing from other countries.

However, a more formal arrangement that committed the United States to putting U.S. soldiers in harm's way to police the world's hot spots would rise political opposition, Bergsten concedes.

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# Home News

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## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Mohammad condoles pilot's family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated director of his office Turki Al Khreishah to attend the funeral of air force pilot Thabet Issa Atallah who was killed in a crash while training Monday.

### Parliament receives Iraqi delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Tuesday met with the visiting Iraqi National Assembly delegation headed by Abdul Wahab Al Hifi, who conveyed to them the greetings of the People's Assembly Speaker Sadiq Mahdi Saleh and of the assembly's members. Hifi praised the Jordanian stand on the Gulf crisis, describing it as a pan-Arab stand. He voiced pride in the Jordanian people's position vis-a-vis the presence of foreign forces in the region. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar welcomed the delegation to Jordan and hailed the Iraqi people for their steadfastness in the face of challenges. Arar reviewed the official and popular Jordanian positions on the Gulf crisis and reiterated Jordan's firm stand, calling for an inter-Arab solution to Gulf crisis, and rejecting the presence of foreign forces in the region. Attending the meeting were a number of deputies and Senate members.

### UNDP director arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) William Draper arrives here today (Wednesday) for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the evacuees' problems and the programme's contribution to this problem. Draper will pay field visits to evacuation camps to get first hand information about the needs and kinds of assistance needed.

### Jordan pledges education for all by 2000

GENEVA (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday stressed Jordan's interest in providing education for all by the year 2000, and pledged Jordan's continued efforts to eradicate illiteracy by that date. In an address to a world conference on education held here, Hamdan underlined the importance of Jordan's development plan which has been adopted by the National Conference on Education Development, held in Amman in 1987, saying that the plan will contribute to improving the quality of education. He noted the special role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the other organisations concerned with spreading awareness about the dangers of illiteracy and means of reducing illiteracy rates to less than 10 per cent by the end of the year 2000.

### Farmers urge Arab solution to Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Council of the Arab Farmers Union has called on all Arab farmers' associations and agricultural cooperatives to send food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people. At an emergency meeting, held recently in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, the council called for an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from Arab territories and stressed the need for an inter-Arab solution to contain the Gulf crisis. The council voiced full support for Jordan's positive stand in support of Iraq. Jordan was represented in the meeting by Director of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation's Projects Department Mohammad Masalha.

### Veterinarians express support for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The meetings of the extraordinary session of the General Federation of Arab Veterinarians started here Tuesday under the chairmanship of the Jordanian Veterinarians' Association President Mohammad Al Tal. Speakers at the opening session of the meetings, which were called to discuss the situation in the Arab Gulf region, denounced the foreign intervention in the region and voiced their support for Iraq which, they said, is defending the Arab Nation against imperialist-Zionist powers. Delegations from Iraq, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan and Jordan are taking part in the meetings.

### London sends aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Sept. 4, Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 arrived from London at Queen Alia International Airport. The plane was carrying a large number of blankets, antibiotic drugs and oral rehydration salts. This was a gift from the British government to help the Jordanian authorities carry out their assistance programme to refugees. This donation was in addition to £500,000 given to the ICRC/Jordanian Red Crescent on Aug. 23. Also on board the plane were large quantities of rice and flour.

### Training courses to be held at QASWF

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) facilities will serve as training centres on emergency relief operations, according to a decision taken Tuesday by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The two U.N. agencies will be holding short training courses on emergency operations for the public and for governmental and non-governmental organisations currently running the relief operations in the evacuation camps. Participants in the courses will be trained on management of emergency camps, methods of distributing food and medical supplies and detecting and dealing with emergency situations.

### 7,633 evacuees leave Amman by air Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 7,633 evacuees left Amman by air Monday, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sources. The sources said that 36 flights were organised Monday, to airlift that number of evacuees. The sources added that the CAA had opened Amman Civil Airport in Marka for air traffic as of Aug. 24 to facilitate the travel of people who were evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

### Art exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An art exhibition entitled "Palestinian Art from the Occupied Lands" will be opened at Jordan National Gallery for the Arts on Sept. 6. The exhibition will last for two weeks and will display works of art by Vera Tamari, Sulaiman Mansour, Tayseer Barakat and Nabil Anani.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjin — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

## 'Unknown soldiers' keep vigil in the skies

AMMAN'S Queen Alia International Airport, about 30 kilometres south of the capital, was what one would call a "regular" airport, with very little out of the ordinary activity in its six years of existence, with an average of 50 incoming and outgoing flights every day. That is, until Aug. 5. Life will never be the same for the controllers at the control tower, what with an average of 100 take-offs and landings every day in the wake of the massive evacuation of foreigners, the heavy responsibility they shoulder to ensure maximum safety, and chances of having to make up for "mistakes" that "handing overs" entail, not to mention the "corny" questions journalists ask. ("Is Jesse Jackson aboard the flight from Baghdad?" was a question asked dozens of times last week, says one of the controllers). The Jordan Times sought to find out the intricacies that a "triple load" entails at a control tower. Ica Wahbeh reports:

AMMAN — The big bird is rolling along the taxiway. It turns once and a few metres further it comes to a halt, its long, sleek body throbbing with life from the engines. It waits obediently at the threshold until the voice fills the cabin: "Sandi tree one two four cleared for take off. Runway two six left. Surface wind 250 (degrees) 14 knots."

The engines rev, thrusting the bird forward, fighting gravity, lifting it higher and higher in the atmosphere.

The eyes do not have the time to watch the undercarriage retract. The traffic is heavy, planes are stacked, circling around, waiting to come in to land to pick up passengers, some of whom simply cannot wait to get out of the Middle East (remember those Austrians who were ferried over by Kurt Waldheim? They must have set a record of speed in changing aircraft at Marka airport. One would have thought bombs and missiles and what not were going to rain in the next few seconds).

"Jordanian seven zero one, this is Queen Tower, clear to land. Runway two six left. Surface wind two seven zero 13 knots," drones on the air traffic controller's voice unperturbed by other voices, the clattering of teleprinters and other equipment. Quite simply, he cannot afford to make a mistake.

As the plane position itself on the gliding path that will bring it down to touchdown point the voice adds: "wind check 208 14 knots." The plane lands smoothly. Another "operation" executed perfectly. The controller has just that little fraction of a second to take a sigh of relief before turning attention to another blink on the radar screen.

These are the "unknown soldiers," as a Royal Jordanian official fittingly called them, who have ensured that an overnight switch from an average load of 50 take-offs and landings to 200 a day did not really endanger human lives.

They are the operators at the three civil airports in the Kingdom who "look after aircraft and peoples, comfort and put at ease" thousands of refugees who pass through Jordan on their way home.

After Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, more precisely since Aug. 5 till Sept. 3, 100,512 evacuees have been transported to their countries from Marka, Aqaba and Queen Alia international airport, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials.

For the purpose of transporting all these people there have been 536 non-scheduled flights in addition to normal, scheduled flights of Royal Jordanian (RJ) and other operators.

The planes were chartered planes from almost all over the world. In a list provided to the Jordan Times by RJ Public Relations Department, there were as many as 32 airlines flying in and out of the three

airports. The cost of the operation, according to RJ officials, is to be covered in accordance with some understandings. If the planes are air force aircraft, the payment is made either through the embassy of the respective country or in cash. If planes come from countries where RJ does not fly, payment is made in cash. If RJ has credit in a country (meaning it flies regularly to and from that country), the payment will be exacted through the Clearing House (an IATA-International Air Transport Association - Swiss-based organisation).

Operations at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) are running round the clock, with personnel working in 24-hour shifts.

Usual QAIA capacity is 1,800 passengers at any moment. Nowadays the airport is using maximum capacity to accommodate over 3,000 passengers daily. At a certain point in time last week, as many as 7,000 people were thronging the airport premises after what was described as a misinterpretation of instructions that ended up in about 60 busloads of evacuees being bought to the airport direct from the Ruweisheit border post.

The transport of evacuees is coordinated with the National Committee for Care of Arab Refugees arriving from Iraq and Kuwait and with the embassies of the countries refugees are from. Random take off and landing rates at the three airports showed the following figures:

Sunday Sept. 2, at QAIA, 24 take offs and landings.

Marks Airport, Sept. 29, 29 take offs and landings.

Aqaba Airport (one day, no date) 32 take offs and landings.

The majority of refugees is formed by Egyptians and Yemenis; the last figure provided by CAA as far as Egyptian evacuees were concerned was 46,777.

One air traffic controller interviewed over the telephone

said by the Jordan Times that on Sunday Sept. 2 alone, from Amman and Aqaba airports (by 10 a.m.) four aircraft had taken off and 17 more were expected for the day. "Traffic is heavy. Pilots sometimes come and go (to Egypt) four or five times a day."

How do controllers cope with all this traffic?

"We are very busy indeed. Especially the approach area (when planes come in to land). But we do our best to help all these stranded people reach home safely."

The staff of air traffic controllers numbers 110 people. They work about seven to eight in a shift, cooperating closely. Thirty are trained to work with the radar system which helps us

Inevitably things happen.

According to an air traffic controller, two planes under Cairo control entered Jordanian air space without the Egyptian controller giving information about the incoming traffic. The planes were brought to almost the same level and collision was averted only through the Jordanian controller's vigilance.

As an RJ official put it: "All our operators show a tremendous civic sense. They work and expect no thanks."

One operator was known to have worked 24 hours non-stop. This is against international regulation. When the officials on inspection asked him why he hadn't taken a break he simply answered that somebody else would have had to do the work and there was no time for rest.

The RJ official's comment needs no comment: "Everybody, every single operator works to the limit of human endurance and nobody complains. They deserve to be mentioned. The work round the clock to make extra flights possible. They constitute the spirit of Royal Jordanian."

Up in the sky a plane was flying taking home some more anxious, desperate passengers.

## Queen inspects plans for camps in Azraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Azraq Tuesday afternoon where she inspected the plans for two new evacuation camps to be established, equipped and managed by the Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The two camps are planned to accommodate 50,000 people passing through Jordan, and relieve pressure on the overcrowded camps at the borders.

The transport of these evacuees to their home countries, via Amman, Aqaba or Ramtha, is at the top of Jordan's priorities at this juncture. Land transport is urgently needed for the journey inside Jordan to the country's gateways, while planes and ships are required to take the evacuees to their final destinations.

It is estimated that 3,000 tents and 300,000 blankets, in addition to no less than 300,000 main meals a day, are urgently needed for the temporary stay.

Queen Noor discussed with representatives from the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, and the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Migrants the design of the camps which is intended to solve the many problems encountered at the existing

## NAF's projects can aid 2,700 families

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said the amendments to the rehabilitation and national aid instructions of the National Aid Fund (NAF) system no. 36, 1986, gave more flexibility to NAF's activities and allowed more people to benefit from assistance it provides.

Shreideh said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the amendments had expanded the authorities of heads of the social development departments entitling them to overlook formalities.

According to the new instructions, families whose monthly income is less than JD 100 can apply for professional rehabilitation assistance, and can get emergency cash assistance ranging from JD 10 to JD 100 in exceptional emergency cases.

He said the new instructions had dropped conditions pertaining to stopping providing assistance to families whose eldest son reaches puberty age. It also dropped a condition calling for the necessity of proving the illness or inability of the eldest son in the family which gets assistance.

Shreideh said women workers in villages, according to the jobs

*Drive carefully!*

## Contributions to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and Aqaba Thermal Station staff have decided to contribute a day pay to the Iraqi children and another day pay to the Jordanian government to help it in its present efforts to cope with the problems currently facing the country.

## APPEAL

### MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:

The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

GUVS - Amman Governorate ..... Tel. 639555

GUVS - Irbid Governorate ..... (02)242518

GUVS - Zarqa Governorate ..... (09)981712

GUVS - Balqa Governorate ..... (05)55285

GUVS - Karak Governorate ..... (03)51169

GUVS - Ma'an Governorate ..... (03)32477

Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society-Aqaba ..... (03) 316130

GUVS - Tafileh Governorate ..... (03)342365

GUVS - Mafrag Governorate ..... (04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

## CAEU concerned over Gulf situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Tuesday expressed deep concern over the developments in the Gulf and their grave international consequences, and possibility of a military explosion in the region.

In a statement, issued after their meeting held at the permanent representatives level here, the council said that any military explosion would inevitably inflict great harm on all pan-Arab interests and wealth, given the scale of the military build-up in the region.

The statement called on the two world leaders to give way to peaceful initiatives. The party expressed hope that the forthcoming Gorbachev-Bush summit will come up with concrete conclusions capable of striking hard at the warmongers and those gambling and tampering with the people's destiny.

The statement called on the conflict would become internationalised thus offering a chance to foreign interference in the Arab affairs.

## Communists urge East, West to give peace a chance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Communist Party Tuesday called on the world nations to resist the evil plans aimed at waging a war, humiliating the Arab Nation and looting its oil resources.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Hurds, nooses and all

IN AN interview with BBC Radio broadcast Sunday night, the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, said his visit to Yemen and Jordan among other Gulf countries was intended at tightening the noose around Iraq, in an effort to strangle the "aggressor" completely.

Mr. Hurd was a career diplomat before he became a politician and then Britain's chief diplomat. Judging by what he had to say there, it seems he has learned very little about the proper use of the diplomatic language and the historical lessons that should have guided his experience. Hurd's all-too-well-known outspokenness may be a factor in what he told his BBC interviewer. But it cannot be the whole story. The fact of the matter is that Hurd has been trying to keep up with his war-mongering prime minister, who has been waging an unjustifiable crusade against Iraq, and he can hardly conjure up enough provocative words and thoughts to please her.

This is a problem for the two to sort out between them. What we should be concerned about here is the question of why Thatcher's Britain is attempting to outbid and outstage everybody in its unbelievable hostility towards Saddam Hussein personally and Iraq as a country. Is it because Thatcher is the self-appointed champion of human rights and international law? Or is it because Britain stands to lose her vital interests in the area if Iraq gets away with its invasion of Kuwait unpunished? Or are there other reasons for the "iron lady" to declare a holy war against the Iraqi president?

The Israelis have been occupying Arab territories for 23 years now. On a number of occasions, we have heard Thatcher and government blast Israel for its continued occupation and inhumane treatment of Palestinians there. But we have never heard Thatcher call for the trial of Yitzhak Shamir as an international criminal, even though the Israeli prime minister is still on the "wanted list" in Britain for his leading role in blowing up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and the killing of tens of British servicemen in the 1948 blast. So, to say that by trying Saddam Hussein for crimes against humanity and by blocking Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, and leaving Israel and Shamir alone for the moment, Thatcher is upholding international law is hypocritical at best. This is the kind of Western double standards which not only Saddam is fighting for, but every self-respecting Arab as well.

To answer the second question, experts do need to assess how British interests will be affected in the Gulf area if Iraq is not "punished for its aggression." Our guess is, though, that Britain would do much better if it tried to find a political settlement with which all can be satisfied, and her interests will be all the much safer if Thatcher's wisdom were commensurate with her age and political acumen proportionate to her length of term in office.

But if we are looking for other reasons why Mrs. T is beating the drums of war, let us just go back a moment in history to see what a renowned British expert on the Middle East, Ambassador Anthony Parsons, had to say about his government's attitude towards the Gulf crisis. In creating Kuwait and marking other borders for the Arabs, he told the Washington Post recently, "we protected our strategic interests rather successfully, but in doing so we didn't worry too much about people living there. We created a situation where people felt they had been wronged." The veteran diplomat, who spent 30 years in the Middle East, went on: "In the Iraqi subconscious, Kuwait is part of Basra province, and the bloody British took it away from them. Likewise, it is also in the subconscious of British leaders that Kuwait is part of Iraq, that Britain made the division and that it is Britain's moral responsibility to defend its decisions, wrong and right, especially when these decisions serve its strategic interests."

So much for Thatcher's rationale on the need to fight Saddam Hussein and his country. It does not hold water at all. As to Douglas Hurd, and the reason he gives for coming here, our advise is simple and clear: Don't tell us to tighten the noose around Iraq. Our people, who will be asked by your prime minister to do that, are against their will already shouldering the heavy burden of imposing sanctions against their Iraqi brothers and sisters and children. And we do not need imperialist mentalities to tell us what to do anyway. When the House of Commons opens its debate on the Gulf Thursday, Mr. Hurd will hear loud cries from fellow MPs that Thatcher is going too far in her crusade against Iraq. Let us just tell him, a day earlier, that such cries can be heard in the minds and hearts of the Jordanian and Arab people at large.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday warned nations advocating an air blockade of Iraq. Any closure of the airways or airspace in the face of air transport is air piracy, the newspaper said. Any boycott of Iraqi airlines or Iraqi-bound air traffic is sure to entice reprisals on behalf of the Arabs, the paper warned. No one would be able to guarantee that airlines and aeroplanes of nations enforcing such a blockade would not be attacked. In any case such a blockade would certainly result in increased travel cost. But those urging the air blockade are definitely pushing the Gulf crisis towards explosion. All those concerned with air safety must stand up to the advocates to avert further escalation of the conflict, the paper advised. Any interception of civil aircraft is certainly an act of violation that is even worse than airplane hijacking in the past. During the past decade lots of efforts were made to ensure the safety of air transport, the paper said. Any attempt to disrupt this will ultimately result in disaster, the paper said. Reason must prevail over warmongering and all sane people must say no to air piracy, the paper said.

## Economic Forum

# Oil, power-madness and media-made hysteria

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

AFTER careful thinking and thorough pondering, the West, especially the American part of it, is gradually discovering that oil is not the real issue in the present confrontation in the Gulf and is thus recovering from the hysterical state of mind into which it was pushed by the mass media. There is no doubt that the West has very important oil interests in the Gulf, but they are not in jeopardy. No oil exporter, including Iraq, is denying its oil to USA, Germany or France and nobody ever will. Who does not, after all, want to sell his oil? What is oil for, anyway?

The other part of the hysterical argument that somebody in the East, President Saddam in this case, wants to dictate an unreasonably high price for oil and thus a crusade is urgently

needed to protect the vital interests of the West must also be dismissed as nonsense. "Even if Saddam would dictate to OPEC, he would be constrained by market forces. Raise the price too high, and the West would turn to alternative fuels. In the short term, a war would just raise the price of oil higher by shutting down production facilities and panicking the spot market."

These are not my words or those of any Arab columnist or commentator. They are, believe it or not, the words and argument of *Newsweek* (Sept. 3, 1990, p. 10). And they carry the same message I tried to convey to the readers and foreign embassies in the four articles I published in this space after the eruption of the Kuwaiti crisis.

In an article replete with insight

and penetrating analysis which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* (Aug. 30), D.R. Henderson, the energy economist on President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, arrives at the same conclusion except that he adds that the costs USA would incur as a result of a higher oil price would still be lower than the costs of a war it wages in the Gulf.

So it is not oil and its undisturbed flow that makes Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher mad. Remember when Arabs imposed an embargo on their oil exports to the West after 1973 war? The embargo was complete and painful and did cause an oil shock. Nevertheless, the West did not move a single military muscle at the time. Now behold that Western armada in the Gulf!

Another self-defeating

theory being promoted by Western media to justify the power-madness gripping Mr. Bush, Mrs. Thatcher and others is that USA is seeking to "knock out" Saddam's nuclear and missile production facilities. That theory still does not make sense but only less of nonsense. If President Saddam sought, or seeks, to have a nuclear and missile capability, that will not be because he wants to wage a nuclear war against USA, as *Newsweek* suggests, or against Israel because he will be defeated in such an encounter with USA and its strategic ally, Israel. Even when the Iraqi president said he would destroy half of Israel by chemical weapons he stated an unequivocal condition for that when he said he would strike if Iraq was attacked. However, the West and

Western media remembered only the threat and have been forgetting that condition.

If President Saddam is really after having mass destruction weapons, nuclear or otherwise, that will be because he feels his country is threatened. This is actually what His Majesty King Hussein has been trying to explain to the West. However, to knock Iraq out is not the solution, not least because it is a solution that breeds more problems than it remedies. It will, for example, disrupt oil flows and probably lead to destroying an unknown number of oil wells and fields, including all Kuwaiti ones. Now remember the other argument relating to defending Western vital oil interests exploited to justify initially the American massive military buildup!

The right solution is to make President Saddam feel that his country and its interests are not threatened. If that is done and the Palestinian grievances are justly addressed, Arabs will not need even conventional arms and a sound and solid framework will be provided for a lasting Arab-American friendship. It can even be a very special and close relationship because the Arab World is the biggest producer and exporter of crude oil while the United States is the biggest consumer and importer of oil and both will remain so for a very long time. It is really sad to see such a great basis for co-operation and friendship overshadowed by media investigation, overreaction of the American president and influences of third parties such as Mrs. Thatcher and the Jewish lobby.

## Gorbachev seeks summit to allay concerns about U.S. buildup in Gulf

By Bryan Brumley  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev's desire for a U.S.-Soviet summit next Sunday stems from concern about the buildup of U.S. troops near his borders and his desire to bolster his country's flagging superpower status.

Gorbachev says he is campaigning for a diplomatic rather than a military solution against Iraq not because his country has become weaker, but because it conforms to his "new thinking" — the approach that underlay arms agreements he has signed with the United States.

"Some people think we lose our prestige and reputation by advocating peaceful means to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," he told a news conference on Friday.

"It is not so. I think that everything will depend on whether we are successful in

using political measures," he said.

By pushing for a peaceful solution, said Angela Stent of Georgetown University in Washington, Gorbachev is calculating that the Soviets "will emerge from this with a stronger international position, even in the Middle East," where the Kremlin has lost ground to the United States over the past decade.

It remains unclear what led to the decision to hold a summit at a time when the Soviets seem to be sitting on the superpower sidelines. The announcement came after a visit to Moscow last week by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. Ostensibly, he was in town as part of a long-scheduled programme to impart U.S. management skills to the Soviet executive branch.

Soviet cooperation with

Washington in the current crisis has reduced the dangers for U.S. President George Bush's administration, vastly diminishing the threat of a global war resulting from any conflict involving American troops in Saudi Arabia.

Overall, however, Gorbachev seems poised to gain more than Bush from the summit. He is swamped with political trouble at home, and he has come under public pressure from his military for guarantees that U.S. troops will be withdrawn from the Gulf once the crisis has passed.

The Soviet commander of the Warsaw Pact, Gen. Vladimir N. Lobov, was quoted last

Thursday as the state news agency TASS as warning that the presence of so many U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, less than 1,200 kilometres from the Soviet border, could alter the strategic balance.

He said the buildup could

derail talks in Vienna aimed at

reducing troops stationed in Europe by the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov told a parliamentary committee that because of the military buildup "the situation is becoming more and more explosive. And there are no guarantees that the United States will leave Saudi Arabia after the crisis is settled."

Gorbachev responded Friday that "I don't think that the U.S. leadership, after political solutions to this conflict have been found, will preserve" its force in Saudi Arabia.

"I believe that when a solution is found, we will be able to provide guarantees," he said. "And I believe that the sooner we have a military detente after that, the more calm we will feel."

Gorbachev and his generals clearly would feel better if Bush stated such guarantees

publicly in Helsinki, where the Sept. 9 summit take place.

The benefit may be greater for Gorbachev in the short term than in the long term, as the Soviets become increasingly preoccupied with their crumbling economy and ethnic unrest that is altering the shape of the nation.

The world has changed greatly since the Middle East war of 1973, when the White House ordered a nuclear alert, opening U.S. missile silos to demonstrate support for Israel against Arab nations, including Iraq, which were armed and backed by the Kremlin.

Since then, the Soviets have balked at joining the American naval blockade against Iraq.

And although the Kremlin halted its arms shipments to Iraq, it has not withdrawn 193 Soviet military specialists and 5,000 construction workers stationed there. It also pulled its diplomats out of Kuwait rather than keeping there in defiance of Saddam Hussein's order to leave.

## Kibi resignation

(Continued from page 1)

Kibi to resign at this point in time...."

An Arab diplomat recalled that Kibi had also opposed the choice of Cairo as the venue for the Aug. 30 Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

Kibi fiercely opposed Cairo as the venue for the meeting," said the diplomat from Tunis. "He felt that all logic dictated that it should have been held in Tunis, and Cairo did not figure anywhere in the equation except, perhaps, as the host of the Arab summit whose resolutions this weekend were supposed to review," the diplomat explained, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Traditionally all meetings of the Arab League Council which groups the foreign ministers — the Arab League headquarters — have been based in the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo until 1979 and then in Tunis, after it was moved in the wake of Egypt's suspension from the league for its separate peace treaty with Israel.

"There were indeed technicalities involved," the diplomat conceded. "Council meetings could be held in any Arab country if circumstances warrant."

However, in this case, there was no such mitigating circumstance to break tradition and have the ministers meet in Cairo," according to an Arab League official in Tunis. In any event, Kibi argued that the decision to convene the meeting should have the support of at least two-thirds of the 21 members of the league.

But Saudi Arabia and Egypt, "in their anxiety to turn the tide of events at the meeting," applied heavy pressure on Kibi and he had to give in, the diplomat said. "It was in Egypt that Kibi was fighting a rear guard action and it had taken for granted that the headquarters of the league was already moved to Cairo."

Kibi, a veteran Tunisian diplomat who assumed the top job at the Arab League 10 years ago to succeed Mahmoud Riad of Egypt, "is closer to the position of the eight league members who did not attend the Cairo meeting," the official said. "But he faced the prospect of having to be a party to something he himself did not approve of and if he had resigned before the meeting, it would have been interpreted as support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," the official said. "On the contrary, Kibi opposes the Iraqi move in principle but, at the same time, was alarmed that the Arab League's general secretariat would not be able to play any constructive mediation role if it commits itself either way."

Another factor that contributed to Kibi's resignation, said the offi-

cials, is the "opposition of Kibi himself and Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to moving the Arab League headquarters to Cairo to placate Egypt," the official added. "But then Iraq was leading the campaign and the move appeared to have majority support until Aug. 2," when Iraq took over Kuwait, he noted. Baghdad has said it now does not believe Egypt is neutral in the Gulf crisis and that Iraq opposes the transfer of the League to Cairo.

To compound the situation, Kibi came under heavy attack from the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers at the Cairo meeting on Aug. 30, according to sources who attended the talks. Farouq Al Sharash, the Syrian minister, "accused Kibi of not issuing formal invitations to all Arab League members to attend that meeting," said one of the sources. Prince Saad Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, "joined Sharash to further accuse Kibi of what he called his 'takeover' approach to the idea of an Arab force to be deployed in Saudi Arabia," according to the source.

Kibi countered the first charge by pointing out "there was no sense in issuing formal invitations after eight members had notified the League headquarters that they would not be attending."

On the second charge, the Arab League secretary general pointed out that "it was not his business to lobby Arab states to ensure that they send troops to Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "My job is to execute the decisions of the Arab League but not to pressure any member state into doing something its sovereign government does not want to do," the source quoted the secretary-general as telling Sharash and Al Sharash.

"Of course, this is a very well-founded argument but another, perhaps the most important, element was the fact that Kibi firmly believed that the Gulf crisis should be settled within an Arab framework without any foreign intervention and he was already disappointed with the Aug. 10 Arab summit's decision which endorsed the presence of the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "He believed it would undermine the basic concept of Arab unity and collective Arab action."

Among the Arab countries, only Egypt, Syria and Morocco sent forces to Saudi Arabia to deploy along with the American-led multinational force there. This, in Kibi's view, "legitimises the international intervention in an Arab affair and he (Kibi), as secretary general of an organisation which was essentially created to deal with Arab affairs and dis-

for an international effort to finally bring peace to the Middle East?"

"What is at stake here is truly significant," Bush said later. He cited "the dependence of America's commitments to its friends and allies, the shape of the post-post-war world, opposition to aggression, the potential domination of the energy resources that are crucial to the entire world."

He spoke in the context of announcing that he was asking Japan, West Germany, Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Free Kuwait for financial and energy resources to support the Gulf mobilisation.

That request opens another area of international involvement. Presumably, nations that agree to pay part of the cost will also want a role in the decision making.

At this time of widespread agreement on how to proceed in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, that wouldn't seem much of a problem. But suppose Saddam Hussein is able to hold out, resists the blockade and keeps his troops in Kuwait indefinitely? Will

parties, could not do anything to help block the internationalisation of an Arab issue?"

According to the source, Kibi would have resigned "there and then" in Cairo, but "considerations that such a move would have sent the wrong signals to the Arab World and the international community" stopped him from doing so.

Another factor, although relatively less significant, which contributed to the resignation, said the official in Tunis, is that the Egyptian government had already been disappointed with the Aug. 10 Arab summit's decision which endorsed the presence of the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia, according to the source. "He believed it would undermine the basic concept of Arab unity and collective Arab action."

Asked what is not negotiable, Abu Iyad said: "Two things. The regions of Babylonia... and the return to power of Emir Jaber." Saddam's biggest fear is that the United States will try to profit from the crisis and weaken him whether or not he withdraws his troops from Kuwait, Liberation quoted Abu Iyad as saying. He fears the Americans will

try their best to weaken the Iraqi army, destroy all non-conventional arms in its arsenal and stop him from using oil for political purposes, Abu Iyad said.

## Features

# 'I used to play at war'

By Martin Langfield  
Reuter

**SAN SALVADOR** — Peace may come to El Salvador, but psychologists say its brutal civil war will live on for years in the minds of children, former fighters and victims.

In the country's only state-run mental hospital in eastern San Salvador, the agony of 10 years of conflict is hauntingly expressed in a patient's therapeutic painting.

The work, in the colours of blood and mourning, depicts three black figures huddled together in the scarlet interior of a church.

"We all have the war within us," Chief Resident psychiatrist Ricardo Mendez told a visitor who viewed the painting. "One hundred per cent of Salvadoreans have been affected by the war to one degree or another."

What is worse, civil and military psychologists say, is that if United Nations-mediated peace talks currently under way succeed in ending the war, El Salvador faces a surge of mental disorders, common violence and dislocation.

"Peace will generate even more pathology," Mendez told Reuter in an interview.

"The people who have the strongest aggressive, antisocial tendencies are those who most envied as guerrillas, as soldiers," he said. "They practically got hooked on this war to pour out their aggression."

"What will happen when peace comes? If people remain armed, there will be mass murders."

Isabel de Pocasangre, a psychiatrist working with amputees at San Salvador's military hospital, echoed Mendez's fears.

"It would seem we can see the psychological problems now. But we will see a lot more after the war."

Pocasangre said combatants from both the armed forces and the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrilla movement would need to undergo re-adaptation programs if the war wound down.

"In the United States one of the big problems they have is the Vietnam veterans," she said. "(Some) of those people are in constant therapy. I think...we will do the same thing here."

Both doctors said no steps had yet been taken to set up such rehabilitation programmes.

El Salvador's decade of conflict has claimed some 75,000 lives, most of them civilians, leaving an ever-widening circle of shattered families, orphaned children and displaced or homeless people.

The war also weighs heavily on

### King plans new mission

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Muamer Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Queen

the general population who have no direct experience of the war, Pocasangre said.

"We live with a great sense of apprehension. Danger is around the corner, physical danger, emotional danger... the war has done a lot of damage."

Many Salvadorean recount experiences of drunken or drugged soldiers abusing the civilian population, provoking fights while armed, even lobbing hand grenades into packed dance halls.

The rebels, too, admit to psychological problems among their ranks, although their isolation in the highlands and mountains makes evidence harder to gather.

"War is an abnormal state," Martina, a 27-year-old guerrilla, said in the Eastern rebel stronghold of Perquin. "You make a great effort not to wind up in an abnormal state yourself."

Both rebel and army spokesmen say their forces have had remarkably few cases mental breakdown considering the often brutal nature of the war.

But psychologists say the trauma of the conflict will live on for years in the minds of those too young to have known any other life.

"Javier," a 21-year-old rebel, told Reuter he had learned to kill around the time of his 14th birthday, shortly after joining the guerrillas.

"It's traumatic at first, but you get used to it," he said.

Cesar Vielman Joya Martinez, an army deserter now in the United States, who says he took part in military-sanctioned "Death squad" killings, cited nightmares about his activities as one of the reasons he deserted and denounced his superiors, according to U.S. media reports.

"Many people get used to the blood and violence," Mendez said. "But the coldness with which things are sometimes done is striking."

Pocasangre, speaking of underage rebel fighters, agreed. "They become brutalised. They get colder. Such a loss of values makes them a danger at any moment."

She also said she had noticed many symptoms of guilt among soldiers with whom she has dealt.

Most work will have to be done, the psychologists said, with the children who have known nothing but war.

"I used to play at war, but we were inspired by cowboy movies," Mendez said. "Now they talk about tanks, about bazookas, machine-guns and bombings."

"They are the reflection of what is happening around them in El Salvador."

# Freedom more valuable than money for E. Germans

By Naoko Nakamishi  
Reuter

**HAMBURG**, West Germany — Three box-like container ships on a river behind a fish factory are home to about 1,000 East Germans who have arrived in Hamburg this year.

Port city, unable to provide enough housing even for its 1.6 million residents, resorted to the ships as a temporary measure last October when thousands of East Germans began pouring in from their country's Communist government collapsed.

Now, it is resigned to keeping them for at least another two years, possibly five. Hamburg is also building container villages on land to absorb the never-ending flow of people.

Everybody thought the number of East Germans coming in would decrease after their election in March," said Brigitte Eberle, a spokeswoman for the Hamburg Social Affairs Office.

"But during the first half of this year, about 5,000 arrived here from East Germany alone. Another 5,000 have come from other East European countries," she said.

The virtual collapse of East Germany's economy since it merged with West Germany's on July 1 has prompted both Bonn and East Berlin to bring forward the date of political unity to Oct. 3 from December.

Vessels on board the three vessels — the Kasamarina, Bibby Endeavour and Flotel Europa — are far from ideal.

Four people are packed into each 20-square-metre room. They have no separate kitchens or sitting rooms and their chil-

dren play in the stairwells.

But however cramped conditions on the ships may be, residents say things are still better than they were in their former homeland.

"I didn't like anything in East Germany — the politics or the social system. That's why I left (East) Berlin," said a truck driver, watching television in his cabin on a recent afternoon. "It'll take a while before we rebuild society."

Heads of East German and ethnic German refugee households receive 1,000 marks (\$650) a month from the West German government.

Lothar Hartenberger, a former East German railway official, has lived on the Kasamarina since May, earning some additional money as a part-time shop worker.

"There's no problem in getting a job," he says. "But it's impossible to find an apartment, a base to start up a new life."

However, Eberle from the Social Affairs Office told Reuters most people had no jobs and suffered from constant boredom. Fights frequently broke out between young men who spent their days drinking beer.

"They start drinking when they find it's not as easy as they had expected," she said. "It's different here from a Communist country where the government took care of everything. You've got to organise things on your own."

A West German official on board the Kasamarina said: "East Germans are big children. You have to take them by the hand and show them what to do. Some

huge backlogs are cleared, officials said.

However, the basic needs of those who have to stay back in the camps set up near the border awaiting their turn after their compatriots who are already in Amman are flown home are more pressing than the airift itself, relief officials pointed out.

According to U.N. officials, the international response to Jordan's appeal for humanitarian aid for the refugees has been swift so far, but Prince Hassan said Tuesday the situation was critical and that much remained to be done.

The situation, critical as it is, may only be the tip of an iceberg," he told the press conference. "The number of foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait is

around two million persons, a large number of whom may find themselves stranded in Jordan," Prince Hassan pointed out.

The International Organisation for Immigration (IOM) has launched a massive airlift of refugees to their respective countries, most of which are wholly unable to provide passage for their nationals or finance their stay in Jordan.

In the first stage of the \$50 million airlift, 9,000 Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis will be flown home in the next two days, and more efforts are

being committed to charter additional aircraft from various airlines, according to the director of the department of operations of the IOM, Dr. R.K. Jenny.

At a crisis meeting held in Geneva Tuesday, IOM Director-General Purcell said that the airift operation would need another \$23 million to finance the evacuation of those nations whose countries are too poor to pay for their nationals' repatriation.

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Pakistan are the countries worst hit by the refugee problem with tens of thousands of their nationals being stranded in Jordan, according to Purcell.

Amid the international flurry, the evacuees put up at the two desert camps near Al Ruweisah continue to suffer from scorching heat during the day, chilling cold during the night and "intolerable agony" in between, a senior relief official told the Jordan Times.

"Some of them even have developed suicidal tendencies," the official said. "It is not surprising, given the abysmal conditions they are living

# Desire to travel doesn't mean you can leave

By Alison Smale  
The Associated Press

**SOFIA, Bulgaria** — Georgi Panchev and thousands of other Bulgarians have spent hours this summer outside the Greek consulate, waiting in vain for travel visas.

Tens of thousands of East Europeans have discovered their new freedom to travel may not mean other people want them to visit.

"If they'd just put up a sign saying, 'we don't take any more Bulgarians,' then I wouldn't stand here and wait," Panchev, 42, said as a brusque guard turned a couple away from the consulate door.

A person loses all his hope waiting here," Todor Dishkov said. "We're waiting like beggars for something to happen."

An informal survey of conditions imposed by Western countries, which used to complain about Communist restrictions on foreign travel, suggests Britain, Greece and the United States lead the list of difficult destinations.

Britain, for example, requires exhaustive proof of financial resources and possession of a return ticket.

Travel restrictions vary widely.

Hungarians and Czechoslovaks need no visas for most of Western Europe, but Bulgarians, Romanians and Poles face waits of weeks or months for approval. Western governments increasingly fear the power East Europeans may have.

Romanians typically have waited 40-60 days for the 30,000 visas the Italian consulate in

Bucharest issued the last seven months.

Czechoslovaks simply board an overnight tour bus, see Venice by day and ride home the next night.

That exhausting form of tourism illustrates the second difficulty for East Europeans: lack of Western money to spend.

Nearly all East European countries have revised official exchange rates to favour Western visitors, but popular demand for dollars or marks remains so high that black markets still thrive.

The shortage of hard currency, lure of Western consumer luxury and comparatively good wages paid in the West for even menial jobs tempt many East Europeans to work at least part of the time while abroad.

West Germany and the United States, with its large Polish community, are favourite destinations for Poles seeking work that often pays more in a month than they make at home in a year.

University graduates in Czechoslovakia, where the Communists made dissident intellectuals into coal-stokers, often go to West Germany to earn marks for a new car, furniture or video recorder.

Of the estimated 50,000 Bulgarians visiting Greece before it slowed the visa process, some helped harvest olives for a few days.

Such arrangements, officially illegal, may not disturb Western employers, Eastern workers or governments very much. Communism made imaging a way of life in Eastern Europe and it was bound to move West when the iron curtain fell.

Regular bending of the rules does worry authorities, however.

Poles have earned a reputation throughout Europe as peddlers and smugglers, thanks mainly to a few "businessmen" who travel regularly to Berlin or Vienna.

Berlin put visa restrictions on Poles at the beginning of July. In an effort to avert curbs by Austria, the only Western nation that does not require visas of its citizens, Poland imposed strict customs controls and invited the Austrians to help enforce them.

It is harder to stop an educated East European who wants to leave his country for good.

The "brain drain" is a particular problem for Bulgaria and Romania, where shattered economies offer little hope of riches or satisfaction.

Bulgaria's passport office said more than 10 per cent of the 44,105 people with higher education who went abroad from January to July did not return. Most were under age 40.

With a rapidly aging population of just under 9 million, Bulgaria cannot afford such free travel became possible in January.

Virginia Young, U.S. consul general in Bucharest, estimates about one-third of the 1.5 million Romanians in Transylvania's region have emigrated since free travel became possible in January.

One-quarter of the 220,000 Germans in Romania's Transylvania region have emigrated since free travel became possible in January.

While we are grateful for the assistance given to persons stranded in Jordan, both from governmental and non-governmental agencies and bilaterally, and while we have nothing but admiration for the volunteers who pioneered relief efforts, it is obvious that much is needed and much remains to be done.

We should not forget that the situation, as it is, may be only the tip of the iceberg. The number of foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait is, according to various estimates, around two million persons, a large number of whom may find themselves stranded in Jordan. This will be simply beyond the capacity of a small country like Jordan to handle.

It is incumbent on the countries of which those now stranded in Jordan are nationals to contribute immediately and effectively towards finding means of transport for their national back home. It is equally incumbent on states and international organisations to contribute food, medicine and other necessary amenities.

Although as indicated earlier, my country shall not shrink from extending all the humanitarian assistance that we can afford, even at the risk of spreading thin our resources, the situation may soon become critical.

It is important that relief work be coordinated. Let me therefore express the hope that this message will receive the attention it deserves and that everyone will assume their humanitarian responsibilities.

## Ruweisah camp

in.

A copy of a memorandum signed by four, who were said to be representatives of the 35,000 evacuees at Shazala Two, rejected relief efforts exerted by international agencies, particularly the Red Cross, and appealed to their embassies to "visit us and see what is the situation here."

According to Salameh Hammam, secretary-general of the Interior Ministry and chairman of a national committee supervising the evacuation process, "the people at the camps (Shazala one and two) need at least another 3,000 tents and other basic facilities which Jordah alone cannot provide."

Following is the full text of the Regent's statement at Tuesday's press conference:

While the attention of the world is rightly focused on the Iraqi-Kuwait crisis — with particular emphasis on the fate of Western nationals held in Iraq — a human tragedy of the widest dimension has received but scant attention. I refer of course to the influx of tens of thousands of third

state nationals from Iraq and Kuwait who have fled from their own or of their country, through no fault of their own, this fall-out of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis could not have come at a worse time for Jordan whose citizens, through no fault of their own, are now stranded in Jordan. This will be simply beyond the capacity of a small country like Jordan to handle.

Although as indicated earlier, my country shall not shrink from extending all the humanitarian assistance that we can afford, even at the risk of spreading thin our resources, the situation may soon become critical.

It is important that relief work be coordinated. Let me therefore express the hope that this message will receive the attention it deserves and that everyone will assume their humanitarian responsibilities.

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## Becker struggles to advance to U.S. Open quarterfinals

## Graf sends Capriati back to school

**NEW YORK (R)** — West Germany's defending champions advanced to the U.S. Open quarterfinals but Boris Becker was lucky to reach his destination, while Steffi Graf cruised down the express lane to victory.

In a clash that failed to approach its pre-match hype Graf toppled America's tennis sweetheart Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 6-2 in 53 minutes before a packed stadium court crowd that came hoping to see the world number one join a list of fallen tournament favourites that includes Martina Navratilova, Monica Seles and Stefan Edberg.

In stark contrast, Becker, seeded second, rallied to take a three-hour, 14-minute serve and volley struggle with Australian Darren Cahill 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Later on stadium court, flashy Las Vegas native Andre Agassi, seeded fourth, dismantled 13th-seeded fellow American Jay Berger 7-5, 6-0, 6-2.

Agassi went on an 11-game tear from 5-5 in the first set and Berger never had a chance to recover.

"I thought it would be little tougher of a match," said the French Open runner-up.

"This is the time to kick it into a higher gear and see what's there," added Agassi, who will play Soviet Andrei Cherkasov in the quarterfinals.

Cherkasov, who upset former

French Open champion Michael Chang to reach the round of 16, was a 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 winner of an all-unseeded clash with South African Christo van Rensburg.

Last year's French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, seeded sixth, defeated 16th-seeded Austrian Barbara Paulis 6-4, 6-3 to reach the quarters against Wimbledon runner-up Zina Garrison.

The fourth-seeded American, who upset Graf and Seles at Wimbledon, advanced with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Czechoslovak 12th seed Jana Novotna earned a quarterfinal shot at Graf by stopping seventh-seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4, 6-2.

Becker overcame a slow start and an inspired opponent in the 48th-ranked Australian to earn his place in the men's final eight.

"It was a very difficult one and I was lucky to get through it," admitted Becker, who lost to Cahill in the second round here two years ago. "It's nice to win 6-4 in the fifth sometimes than winning two, two and two," he said.

Becker appeared to sleep through the first set as Cahill, a semifinalist here in 1988, outplayed the world number two at his own serve and volley game.

The West German responded to an internal wake up call after his miserable start and, seizing

momentum, won the second and third sets with relative ease. He delivered a remarkable 94 per cent of his first serve missiles or targets in the third.

Cahill fought back ferociously in the fourth by beating Becker to the net and volleying with lightning fast reflexes.

He broke Becker three times, while staving off seven break points to level the match.

But when the bell sounded for the fifth round, the second seed came out slugging like the Boris Becker who has won three Wimbledon titles.

He surrendered a total of just five points in five service games and needed a single break in the seventh game to secure his quarter-final berth where he will face 9th seeded American Aaron Krickstein, who defeated Amos Mansdorf 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final match of Monday's programme.

Becker's counterpart on the women's side was never tested in her four rounder.

The 13th-seeded Capriati, who led the United States to Federation Cup victory in July, has demonstrated far more poise since turning professional in March than a 14-year-old has any right to possess.

But on Monday, the adorable adolescent with the grown-up handstrokes came down with a case of nerves.

"I was pretty nervous out there. I didn't realize it until I got

out on court," said French Open semi-finalist Capriati, who also lost to Graf in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Capriati played an error-filled match — 18 in the first set to Graf's three — while the top seed, steady as ever, quickly ran off eight straight games from 1-1 to take the opening set and a 3-0 lead in the second.

"I think to win the first set all she had to do was get the ball on court," Capriati said.

The teen phenom briefly gave the 20,000-strong crowd some false hope when she drilled a forehand down the line to break Graf and held serve at love for 3-2.

But Graf fought off two break points in the next game, then broke Capriati at 15 and served out the match, winning on her first match point with a classic power forehand deep into the corner and well out of reach.

"I expected a very hard match. She didn't play as well as she can play," Graf said.

"She got a tennis lesson from the number one player in the world today," Capriati's coach Tom Gulikson said.

Capriati should give Graf a run for her money in the near future, but the 14-year-old Floridian was the first to admit that she's not there yet.

"She's definitely still at another level," Capriati said of the defending champion.

Others were Bengal Bay Yacht Club and the Nippon Ocean Racing Club of Japan; Compagnia Della Vela of Italy, headed by Raul Gardini; Yacht Club de France-Sete; Monte Real YC of Bayona, Spain; Stenungsbaden YC of Sweden; and YC Galea of Yugoslavia.

## 7 of 21 challengers pull out of America's Cup

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The challenger field for the 1992 America's Cup yacht race was cut nearly in half when 11 syndicates met the deadline for posting a \$150,000 performance bond.

Seven of the original 21 groups that originally filed challenges with the defending San Diego Yacht Club formally withdrew over the U.S. Labour Day holiday weekend or failed to meet Monday's midnight deadline.

Three other syndicates, including two from the Soviet Union, requested more time to make the required payment for the sailing of challenger trials.

The 11 challengers that posted payments with the Challenger

## Platini warns players not to underestimate Iceland

**REYKJAVIK (R)** — France meet Iceland for a European soccer championship qualifier Wednesday with an unbeaten record of 10 matches but manager Michel Platini is warning his players not to expect an easy game.

"Everybody thinks teams like Iceland and Cyprus are easy," Platini said ahead of France's opening group one tie in Reykjavik.

"But if you go there thinking you are better than them, you will lose."

Platini is well aware that Iceland's rough and aggressive football has often upset better teams — especially in Reykjavik where conditions are often cold and windy at this time of year.

France managed only goalless draws against the Icelanders in Reykjavik in 1975 and 1986, and French clubs Nantes and Monaco lost away games against Icelandic sides in the 1985 European Cup and 1988 UEFA Cup respectively.

Iceland beat Albania 2-0 at home last May in the only tie played so far in group one, which also includes Spain and Czechoslovakia, and they have been performing well under their new Swedish manager, Bo Johansson.

The Icelandic side contains seasoned professionals who play in

top European clubs, such as Tottenham sweeper Gudni Bergsson and Anderlecht midfielder Aron Gudjohnsen, both as amateurs from the Icelandic League.

France have never qualified for the European Championship finals but they were champions as hosts in 1984.

Although Platini's team failed to reach this year's World Cup finals in Italy, the former European footballer of the year has formed an exciting group of players who won seven and drew one of their eight games last season.

France's 2-1 victory over West Germany in February was the world champions' only defeat in the past two years.

Platini said his team would aim to win. "At worst, a draw would be all right though it's not what we're looking for. But a defeat is forbidden. As I said before, that would mean two years in the wilderness," he said.

Platini's line-up is likely to include five players from champions Marseille, including the brilliant striking duo of Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona.

Papin has been leading scorer in France in each of the past three years and has six goals in seven matches already this season while enfant terrible Cantona has notched up nine goals in 14 internationals.

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## Aouita makes successful comeback at Seville meet

**SEVILLE, Spain (AP)** — American Danny Everett and Cuban Roberto Hernandez set the world best in the 300-metre dash, while the Santa Monica Track Club, including Car Lewis, again failed to break the world record in the 400-metre relay at an international track and field meet Monday.

In the meantime, Said Aouita of Morocco, holder of five world distance records, made a successful comeback in the mile, after having been sidelined all summer following a leg operation.

Everett and Hernandez were clocked in the identical time of 31.48 seconds, but officials awarded the victory to Everett.

Aouita took the mile in a slow 4:02.30, edging Marco Ruiz of Spain, second in 4:02.31, and Tony Gjolja of Norway, third in 4:02.84.

European champion Rodion Gataulin of the Soviet Union won the pole vault at 18 feet, 8 1/2 inches (5.70 metres). Former world record-holder Vladimir Polyakov, also of the Soviet Union, was second at 18-4 1/2 (5.60).

Javier Garcia Chico of Spain, finished third, also at 18-4 1/2. Polyakov beat Chico on fewer misses.

The previous mark of 31.69 was set by Hernandez at Brasilia, Czechoslovakia, in July.

Lewis, teaming with Mark Witherspoon, Leroy Burrell and Floyd Heard, failed for the fifth time this season to break the relay world record.

The mark of 37.79 was set by the French team at the European Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, Saturday. Prior to that, it was 4:02.30, edging Marco Ruiz of Spain, second in 4:02.31, and Tony Gjolja of Norway, third in 4:02.84.

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# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1990 7

## Fahd pledges to help world avert oil crisis

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has promised a U.S. congressional group that his nation will do its utmost to help the world avert any oil crisis due to the Gulf confrontation.

"We want to contribute to make the world as happy as much as we can do and especially with respect to oil," said the Saudi monarch to the group of U.S. House and Senate representatives he received in the Saudi Red Sea port city of Jeddah Sunday.

His statements were distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency a day later.

"We know fully well that there are major industrialized countries that need the petroleum supplies and we also know that countries with limited income would suffer inflation if oil prices soared," said the King, according to the press agency.

"Therefore we shall do what we can for oil so as not to create a problem for the world in a commodity that is a vital issue for the daily life of people," he said.

Fahd expressed hope that other oil-producing states will do the same.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) a Niclos-based newsletter with close ties to Saudi Arabia's oil ministry, said the kingdom will gradually boost its daily production by 2.27 million barrels above its current OPEC-prescribed level of 5.38 million barrels per day.

MEES estimated that OPEC production would reach 22.1 million barrels a day this month, rising to 23.1 million barrels daily by the end of the year.

## Soviets refuse to supply E. Europe with more oil

WARSAW (R) — East European countries have failed to persuade Moscow to make up for a steep fall in Soviet oil supplies to cushion them from dearer world crude prices, a Polish official said Tuesday.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland asked the Soviet Union at a meeting in Warsaw last week to raise supplies in the final quarter of this year to make up for cuts in the first nine months, but the official said Moscow refused.

"The outcome is that the quantities which are proposed to be supplied in the fourth quarter are below the contract commitments," he said. "Nobody was too happy about that, to put it mildly."

East European countries depend almost totally on imported crude and rely heavily on supplies from the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer.

The official said bilateral negotiations would continue and one possibility was that the Soviet Union might deliver more crude in the final quarter if its partners agreed to pay in hard currency.

"Despite the cutback of the commitment they might offer a little bit more for payment in

## Philippines' schools to save energy

MANILA (AP) — Public and private schools went on a four-day week Monday to save energy during the Gulf crisis.

The cabinet ordered all elementary and high schools to close Fridays until Oct. 31 in an energy-saving measure. Officials said the four-day schoolweek could be extended depending on the situation next month.

The Philippines relied heavily on oil from Kuwait and Iraq before the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the subsequent worldwide embargo on Iraqi oil.

## Iranian economy recovers

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's economy has staged a strong recovery since the end of the Gulf war with Iraq, with state revenues rising sharply, output growing and the budget deficit falling, according to a report.

Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh said in a report to the Majlis (parliament) that gross domestic product grew two per cent in the year ended March 21 — the first rise for several years.

Government revenues rose 50 per cent in the year — the first full year since the Gulf war ceasefire in August 1988 — and had continued rising at the same rate in the first four months of the current year. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

"The budget deficit has sharply decreased and this year it is expected to fall far below that set by the Majlis, thus making the government free from borrowing from the central bank," Nourbakhsh said.

IRNA said the report, published in the daily newspaper Kayhan, said output of large industrial units had risen by 4.8 per cent in the past nine months.

Production of staple crops had also risen sharply, with government purchases of surplus wheat from farmers this year already at 1.9 million tonnes, 50 per cent higher than last year and more than double the 1988-89 level.

Iranian organisations had opened letters of credit totalling \$2.55 billion since March for key projects including on refineries and storage facilities and petrochemical complexes, it said.

The Kremelin would lose the power to levy taxes and would have to rely on dues from the republics. But the central government would retain some responsibility for defence, strengthening the currency and disaster relief.

Legislator Bella Denisenko of the Kuzbass coal region said she favoured the plan because it replaces the strict centralised Soviet government with links between each of the republics.

But Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silaev said planners were forced to retain some functions for a central authority of the economic union.

"We cannot afford our own

## Iraq suspends repayment of massive foreign debt

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iraq Monday suspended repayment of the country's massive foreign debt in response to the United Nations trade embargo, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA quoted Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, the acting minister of commerce and finance, as saying the debt suspension would have extremely adverse effects on countries and companies "incapable of withstanding the current situation." He was referring to the economic difficulties faced by poorer countries who count on trade with Iraq for generating critical foreign exchange.

"Compensation is not going to be a solution for the economic crisis," Saleh was quoted as saying, "because it is temporary, limited and ineffective for dealing with the losses suffered by these countries... dragged into the aggressive schemes of the U.S. administration."

The news agency said Iraq had paid \$5.5 billion on its debt in the first half of this year.

The country's outstanding debt has been conservatively estimated at \$30 to \$35 billion, most of it owed to the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Japan for purchases of weapons, technology and food.

The minister, a U.S.-educated economist, said the impact of the crisis on the world economy was

indicated by U.S. moves to obtain help in paying for its massive Gulf deployment.

Meanwhile, Iraq has lost around \$2.1 billion in oil revenue in the month since its takeover of Kuwait prompted a United Nations trade ban.

"No oil has left Iraq since the embargo," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said. "The blockade is working well."

Baghdad has also gained no advantage from grabbing Kuwaiti fields whose oil could have earned more than \$1 billion last month. Not a drop was sold, Gulf industry sources said.

Industry sources said Iraq's crude oil production has fallen to 40,000 barrels per day — enough to meet domestic needs — from around 3.1 million barrels per day (b/d) in July.

Exports, around 2.7 million b/d before the takeover, stopped when Baghdad was denied the use of its three major outlets.

A 1.5 million b/d pipeline through Turkey, a 900,000 b/d pipeline across Saudi Arabia and the tanker route through the Gulf were all closed.

Oil traders and shipping executives in the Gulf said oil companies and most countries were complying with the trade ban.

British, French and the U.S. warships in the Gulf and Red Sea make the embargo leak-proof.

"They question almost every ship," said a shipping executive who monitors marine radio in the

Gulf said. "They have total control of the Gulf."

Revenue losses for both Iraq and Kuwait are estimated on the basis of current market prices, which jumped over 50 per cent on fears of a disruption of Gulf supplies and the embargo on more than four million b/d of Iraqi and Kuwait crude.

The Gulf crisis has sent crude oil above the \$25 a barrel price Iraq sought back in mid-July when it was pressing Kuwait and other OPEC members for stricter limits on production.

But Baghdad has had to watch while other OPEC members raised their prices and boosted production to fill the Gulf crisis gap.

Dubai crude, the Middle East benchmark peaked 10 days ago above \$31 a barrel and was on sale in Tokyo Tuesday for \$26.70, well above the pre-invasion price of \$18.

Oil and shipping sources said as long as Western navies patrol the Gulf no buyer or shipowner would dare to load from Iraq's Mina Al Bakr terminal, which formerly handled around 300,000 b/d. Nor has Iraq so far tried to load its own tankers at Al Bakr, they said.

The only incident seen as a breach of the ban was when the Iraqi tanker Ain Zalath discharged part of its cargo at Yemen's Aden refinery. Unloading stopped after an outcry abroad.

## Israel expects debt write-off from America

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel expects the United States to cancel a \$4.5 billion debt after President George Bush proposed forgiving \$7.1 billion owed by Egypt, Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai said Monday.

Asked if Israel felt Washington should make a reciprocal gesture towards its closest Middle Eastern ally and cancel the debt, Modai told reporters:

"Oh, definitely. I don't see how they can avoid it. Egypt is getting the aid because of Israel, since Camp David."

He was referring to the 1978 accord that led to a 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and made them the two largest recipients of U.S. aid. Israel annually receives \$3 billion and Egypt gets \$2.3 billion from Washington.

Bush said Saturday he plans to recommend to Congress that Egypt's military debt to the United States be forgiven to help it overcome grave financial problems worsened by the Gulf crisis.

Egypt has steadfastly backed Washington in the crisis.

"Each time there was a change in the allowance or rate we received, Egypt received a parallel sum. It doesn't make any sense that now that Egypt gets a waiver, Israel will stay out of it. It's ridiculous," Modai said.

He said he would request the

write-off in talks with U.S. Treasury officials in Washington later this month. Israel owed the U.S. government \$4.5 billion at the end of March.

Modai's statement coincided with an Israeli request that Washington advance payment of \$1.8 billion in annual military aid to early next year. Israel has been pressing to increase its annual military grants.

Israel, fearing its regional military dominance would be threatened by U.S. arms shipments to Saudi Arabia, has asked Washington to offset these sales by sending Israel more weapons, mainly for the air force.

The New York Times reported the United States would reassure Israel by shipping it \$1 billion worth of weapons, but Israeli officials said details of the package had yet to be finalised.

Modai, has been working on an economic programme to spur growth, reduce inflation and produce jobs for Soviet Jewish immigrants flooding Israel. He said Monday he would delay presenting the plan to study further the effects of the immigration.

Nearly 83,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year, and treasury officials place a \$20 billion price tag on absorbing the one million Soviet Jews expected over the next five years.

## Yeltsin proposes scrapping Soviet Union for economic association

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian legislators Tuesday loitered at their parliament building in hopes of snaring a copy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's three-volume proposal for transforming the Soviet Union into an economic and defence association.

The plan allows the central Soviet government run by Mikhail Gorbachev to retain only powers delegated to it by the 15 Soviet republics, according to a copy seen by the Associated Press.

The republics would become sovereign in most matters, running their own economies.

The Kremlin would lose the power to levy taxes and would have to rely on dues from the republics. But the central government would retain some responsibility for defence, strengthening the currency and disaster relief.

Legislator Bella Denisenko of the Kuzbass coal region said she favoured the plan because it replaces the strict centralised Soviet government with links between each of the republics.

But Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silaev said planners were forced to retain some functions for a central authority of the economic union.

"We cannot afford our own

territory, customs and borders," Silaev said in introducing the plan Monday.

If approved by the Russian republic's parliament on schedule Sept. 11, the national legislature would be under considerable pressure to follow suit, as it convenes Sept. 10. The Russian Republic contains half the Soviet Union's people and three-quarters

of its land.

"Russia gives the impulse for change to the entire country," Yeltsin told his legislature Monday. "The centre can no longer ignore this and discard everything done by us."

The changes would allow each republic to institute its own economic reforms. Yeltsin's plan calls for the Russian to use that freedom to legalise private land and selling off state-owned business beginning this year. State-owned apartments and residential lots would be given away to try to solve critical shortages of food and housing.

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## 31 killed in attack on ANC supporters in hostel

Police reportedly join in the killings

**SEBOKENG, South Africa (R)** — At least 31 people were killed when Zulu vigilantes backed by South African forces attacked a hostel housing supporters of black leader Nelson Mandela overnight, residents said Tuesday.

At least nine of the victims in the attack in Sebokeng township, south of Johannesburg, were killed by South African government troops, local residents said.

Witnesses said Zulu supporting the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party were ferried by security forces to the hostel mainly occupied by Xhosa supporters of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). South Africa's main black opposition group.

The Inkatha vigilantes hacked and bludgeoned to death 22 people inside the hostel, while soldiers outside opened fire indiscriminately as a clergyman and residents tried to negotiate peace with police, local residents said.

"The police came over dead and dying people," said Father Lord McCamell of the Church of God in neighbouring Evaton.

There was no immediate confirmation of the incident from police or army officials.

Mandela, who was briefed on the overnight violence early Tuesday, immediately left for

Sebokeng to quell tension.

More than 500 people have died in a month of warring between ANC and Inkatha factions in townships around Johannesburg.

In a separate bid to bring peace to South Africa's volatile townships, President F.W. de Klerk made his first official tour of Soweto, the country's largest township, since taking office last year.

In violence in other black urban areas, a further four people were killed Monday night in the townships of Vosloorus and Katlehong, east of Johannesburg, a police spokesman said.

The attack on the Sebokeng hostel seemed certain to fuel the already strident allegations of police support for Inkatha in its township war against the more radical, anti-apartheid ANC.

De Klerk Sunday said he had ordered an investigation into such allegations. Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok has said they are part of an orchestrated campaign aimed at discrediting

the police.

"The soldiers were in a real menacing mood. We are trying to discuss peace with the police and the soldiers moved forward and opened fire," McCamell told Reuters of the Sebokeng attack.

Thousands of angry residents Tuesday massed in the streets ahead of Mandela's visit while police and army armoured vehicles roared through the township, firing teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

Hundreds of hostel dwellers, mainly metal workers in nearby industrial plants, assembled around the building amid rubble and makeshift barricades.

Sebokeng Resident Jaffa Dalindini said he had compiled the names of 31 people killed during the night.

"Police surrounded the area.

The Inkatha people were brought in by the police using yellow tape. There was shooting from the Inkatha people. They were helped by police," he said.

He said the hostel dwellers were not affiliated to any political group. But metal workers are traditional supporters of the ANC.

Metallworkers' Union legal adviser Fezzi Dabi said: "Police were assisting the attackers. One witness saw police in three private cars and a Combi (minibus) bring in the Inkatha people."

## Hopes for Cambodian peace dashed over protocol

**BANGKOK (R)** — Hopes for an end to war in Cambodia raised by the world's great powers were dealt a severe blow Tuesday by a quarrel among Cambodian factions over which leader would fly to dispense the peace.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had proposed a plan that would place tens of thousands of peacekeepers in a country that has been bled to death over a decade by civil war.

China and the Soviet Union agreed to stop providing arms to the belligerents.

But when it came time for the Cambodians to talk about these developments during scheduled talks in Jakarta, the leaders of three of the four factions refused to be the first to go.

"Why should we go?" a spokeswoman for the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of three guerrilla groups trying to take power from the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, asked Tuesday.

"Whom are we going to talk to?" she said. "Those junior puppets?"

She said Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and his delegation were preparing to leave for Jakarta when they heard that Prime Minister Hun Sen would not attend the peace talks personally.

"We are waiting for Hun Sen," she said. "If he is going then Khieu Samphan is going. If Hun Sen is not going then nobody from the Khmer Rouge is going."

Hun Sen backed out after he heard the talks would not be attended by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who heads a small non-Communist army and is a leader of the three-faction guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk said he was sending his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. But the son designated his political adviser to represent the party's dismal election prospects, analysts say.

"I have made this decision because I believe that it is in the best interests of the Labour Party's chances at the general election," said a calm Palmer.

Africa's 550 million population is growing at 3.1 per cent a year, the world's highest rate, and could reach 1.6 billion by the year 2020, outstripping China.

The number of Catholics is growing along with the population.

**N. Zealand premier resigns, minister to take over**

**WELLINGTON (R)** — New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer resigned Tuesday and said he would be succeeded by Foreign Minister Mike Moore.

Palmer announced the decision after a meeting of Labour Party members of parliament and told a news conference he would retire from politics at the next election on Oct. 27.

Moore, 41, will be New Zealand's third Labour prime minister in little more than a year and faces an uphill struggle to restore the party's dismal election prospects, analysts say.

"I have made this decision because I believe that it is in the best interests of the Labour Party's chances at the general election," said a calm Palmer.

The Cambodian disease of over-optimism is in evidence here," a Western diplomat said.

Labour trails the centre-right National Party by up to 35 per cent in opinion polls with less than two months to go before the election.

Palmer's critics have accused him of lacklustre leadership, saying this was the main reason behind Labour's poor showing.

But analysts say more than two years of internal Labour squabbles have undermined any chance the party could regain the popularity which swept former Prime Minister David Lange to a landslide victory in 1987.

Palmer called for party unity. "The need for the feeling of unity is paramount at this time and that feeling of unity will have been restored by my decision," he said.

They said their pensions have been eaten up by weekly government devaluations. The cordoba was devalued 8.2 per cent, falling to 980.000 the dollar Monday.

Bank workers, also protesting shrinking wages, said Monday they would continue with partial work stoppages begun last Friday in demand of a 14.5 per cent salary increase.

"We were left mutilated by the war but they are going to have to drag us out of here dead," said William Leon, who lost an eye fighting the U.S.-backed contras.

**Nicaragua war wounded take over TV network**

**MANAGUA (R)** — A group of Nicaraguan war wounded, some blind, others in wheelchairs, have stormed the headquarters of the government's television network demanding higher pensions.

The veterans, wounded in the eight-year contra war, took over the offices of the National Television System in Managua accompanied by mothers and orphans of soldiers killed in action.

Both government television stations were knocked off the air by the action late Monday. The veterans said they would not leave the headquarters or allow transmission until the government guaranteed higher pensions.

"We were left mutilated by the war but they are going to have to drag us out of here dead," said William Leon, who lost an eye fighting the U.S.-backed contras.

**Florida campus killer dares police to catch him**

**GAINESVILLE, Florida (R)** — A serial killer who has terrorized this university community left signals at his grisly crime scenes threatening to strike again and daring police to "catch me if you think you can," a top investigator said Monday.

Gainesville police Captain R.B. Ward told Reuters in an interview that the killer thrived on the confrontation with authority in this case police.

"The killer is playing games. He's getting everything he wants," said Ward, the co-chief of the special task force investigating the murders that have terrified this city of 135,000, where people have armed themselves with everything from rifles to crossbows.

Since Aug. 26 the bodies of five students — four slender blonde women and one athletic male — have been found stabbed to death in off-campus apartments near

## North Korean premier starts historic visit to South Korea

**SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies)** — The prime minister of North and South Korea met Tuesday in a historic first step aimed at easing cold war tensions and starting to generate "sufficient heat to thaw the thick ice of distrust."

It is the highest-level contact between the hostile Koreas since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

By holding talks, Communist North Korea also gives tacit acknowledgement to the legitimacy of South Korea's government, which it has refused to recognize for 40 years.

"I am so glad that you have taken the challenge of blazing an unbeaten trail through the thicket to come here," South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-Hoon told his North Korean counterpart, Yun Hyung Muk.

"If only we could confidence in each other by meeting again and again, we should be able to generate sufficient heat to thaw the thick ice of distrust," Kang said at an eight-course banquet on the eve of formal talks.

"After crossing the border for

the first time, I realize it's easy," said Yun.

Despite their countries' opposing ideologies, the premiers have much in common. Both have roots near the North Korea-Manchurian border. Both are in their 60s, were appointed premiers in 1988 and are ranked high in their government hierarchy though their policy-making roles are limited.

The two begin formal talks Wednesday on easing military and political confrontation and launching multilateral exchanges.

South Korean officials have cautioned against high expectations, saying the talks are only a significant first step on a long road toward peace and unification.

"People expect to reap much from the talks," South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said Tuesday. "But the task of national unification should take a step by step approach, just like eating a bowl of rice one spoonful at a time."

North Korean radio, monitored in Tokyo, warned Seoul to approach the talks "with a sincere

attitude... and cease from spoiling the atmosphere of dialogue."

The broadcast said South Korea's attempt to enter the United Nations alone, a subject expected to arise in the talks, was a strategy to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The Korean peninsula was divided into the Communist North and capitalist South in 1945 and the two nations fought a three-year war in the early 1950s. Relations between the Koreas are hostile and Tuesday's border crossing was only the third by an official delegation in more than 40 years.

Thousands of South Koreans waved and applauded as the delegation drove into Seoul along a similar route used by North Korean tanks in the opening days of the 1950-53 Korean War.

A smiling Yun strolled into the 32-storey Intercontinental Hotel just after midday.

"I saw a lot of citizens along the road who waved their hands to welcome us," Yun told Kang.

"The talks should proceed well so as not to disappoint the people."

## COLUMN 8

### Mrs. Quayle tossed into Colorado River

**GRAND CANYON, Arizona (AP)** — Marilyn Quayle was tossed into the Colorado River during a whitewater rafting expedition through the Grand Canyon but escaped injury, a park official says. The wife of Vice President Dan Quayle fell into the water when the raft hit Lava Falls Rapids, one of the roughest stretches in the river, Chuck Lundy, spokesman for Grand Canyon National Park, said. John Reed, assistant superintendent for the park, pulled Mrs. Quayle back into the raft. Lundy said. She was wearing a life jacket as required, he said. The Quayles were accompanying a U.S. Park Service patrol on a rafting expedition of several days, said Lundy.

### Big Ben's bell is back in business

**LONDON (AP)** — Big Ben's bell is back in business, tolling the hours as it has done for 131 years. The famous, booming tone of the bell resounded for the first time since March 26, the Department of the Environment said. Inspectors found earlier this year that the hammer which strikes the bell was suffering metal fatigue, so repairs were made. Big Ben, named for Sir Benjamin Hall, a government works commissioner, first sounded May 31, 1859. It is normally silenced twice a year when the hands of the four-faced clock are moved forward in the spring for daylight savings time and back again in the fall. Big Ben is the name of the bell, but it has become the nickname for the entire 20-storey tower of the Houses of Parliament.

### 1,000 African birds die in transit to U.S. dealer

**NAIROBI (R)** — Over half a consignment of 2,000 African birds, including hornbills, touracos and parrots, smothered or starved to death during shipment from Tanzania to the United States, members of the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA) said. KSPCA officials here said the birds were packed into crates so tightly that more than 1,000 died. They were unloaded from an aircraft and left at Nairobi Airport last week. The consignment was being shipped to an importer in Chicago by four companies in Tanzania.

### Peruvian claims world record for telling jokes

**LIMA (R)** — With a broad smile and a four-day-old beard, a Spanish-born Peruvian businessman claimed here to have set the world record for joke-telling for the second year in a row following a non-stop 100-hour joke-telling marathon. Felipe Carbonell, the son of a Spanish minister, said he broke his earlier record of cracking jokes for 72 hours set in Lisbon in 1988. "Laughter in a crisis-ridden country such as Peru is an elixir to help us bear the burden," Carbonell, a bullfighting commentator and tennis player, told reporters. Peru is plagued by guerrilla violence and its economy is in shambles. During his 100-hour session at a hotel in Lima, he said he told 8,000 jokes in Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

### World's largest calf perishes in Florida blaze

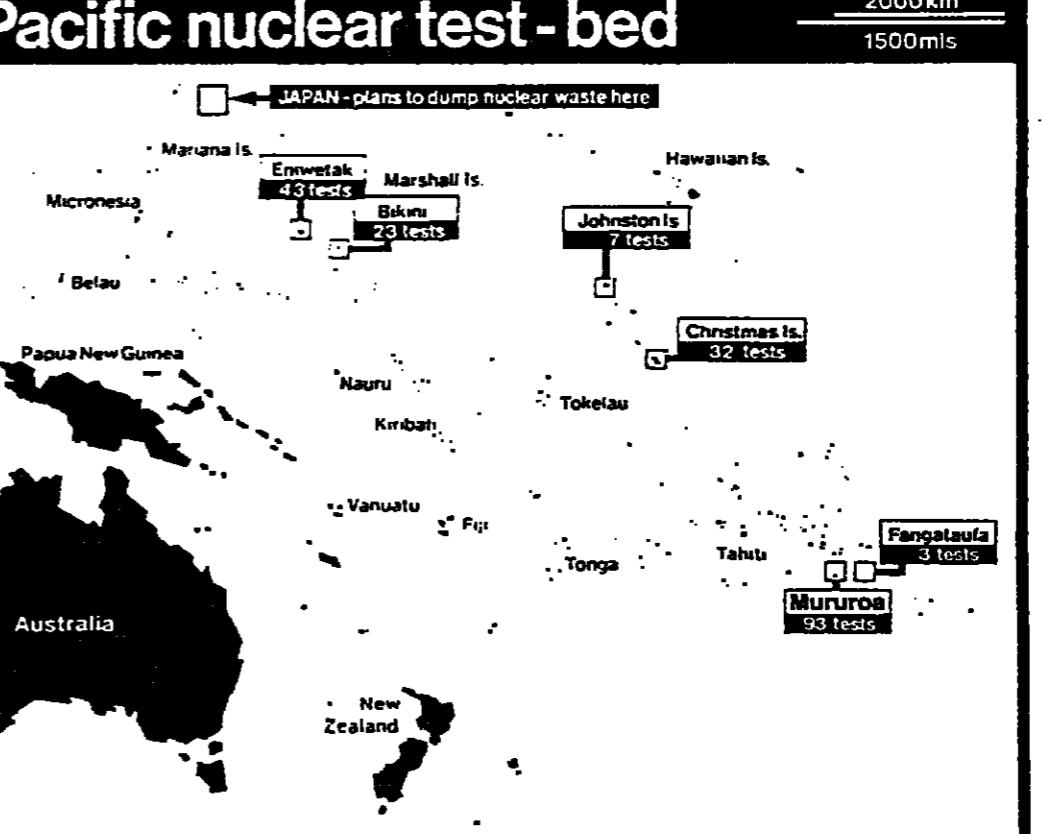
**KISSIMMEE, Florida (AP)** — A two-headed calf, a boar rat whose teeth would not stop growing and all 550 pounds (250 kilograms) of what proprietors declared the world's largest claim have perished in a museum fire. More than 500 displays of human and animal oddities, wonders of the deep and instruments of death, the occult and superstition were destroyed Saturday in a fire at the Great American Fun House, officials said. While the calf and clam were dead long before flames engulfed the oddities museum in this town south of Orlando, charred placards in the windows noted that all the exhibits had once, in fact, been "born alive." "There were many things here that you'll never see again," said Museum Proprietor Vinnde Lamano at the fire scene. Lamano and oddities collector Marc Frierson opened their shrine to the bizarre inside a former surf shop 10 months ago. Arson investigators sifted through debris that included a shrunken head, the shoes of an Icelandic giant purchased at a swap meet, and a two-headed calf.

"After each underground explosion there was a sort of tidal wave that washed over part of Fangataufa and a few days later thousands of stinking dead fish washed up on shore," he said.

Women also describe abnormalities in newborn children while

## Mururoa workers detail accidents at nuclear site

### Pacific nuclear test-bed



Map showing the location of the Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia, relative to other Pacific islands and Japan.

"After the explosion, people with special protective gear had to enter the bunker and pour cement over the whole container."

"Rene Villette's remains — or what were thought to be his remains — were found three days later and sent to France in the form of a concrete block."

"Another worker described an accident in 1965 on Mururoa when three workers were killed by dynamite. 'Sometimes we had to work in the contaminated zones. We weren't forced to do so but we got extra money if we

did,'" he said.

Tupou lived on Fangataufa Atoll, a test site island near Mururoa, for four years. He complained about a virulent form of food poisoning, from which some people died, after eating fish taken from the surrounding sea.

"These testimonies, like all authentic human stories, contain discrepancies and distortions," Greenpeace says in the book's introduction.

"Some of the people interviewed are talking of events that occurred more than 20 years ago and of incidents which ... are difficult to verify."

The French embassies in Canberra and Wellington declined to comment on the book until officials had read it.